Commissionerate of Customs conducted two operations in Indian waters around Mumbai port in which approximately 3 lakh litres of smuggled HSD have been seized.

Production of natural gas from gas hydrates

*33. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently huge gas hydrates in Krishna-Godavari basin have been discovered;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is looking at producing natural gas from gas hydrates on commercial basis;

(c) if so, whether India has got that technology since such a technology *i.e.*, producing natural gas from gas hydrates is not available in any part of the world; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Gas hydrate deposits have been found in the Krishna-Godavari offshore basin in one of the wells drilled/cored by the hired drillship "Joides Resolution" in a recent drilling/coring programme for finding gas hyderates in Indian waters.

(b) to (d) Internationally, all exploration programmes for gas hydrates are still at Research and Development stage. Gas from the gas hydrates is primarily methane gas. Feasible production technologies for extracting natural gas from gas hydrates on a commercial scale are yet to be developed any where. India is also pursuing R&D in gas hydrates.

An initiative under the National Gas Hydrate Programme (NGHP) has been launched to pursue India's objective to progress towards commercialization of gas hydrates and keep pace with developments taking place internationally to find a technological solution for extraction of gas from gas hydrates on a commercial scale.